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LOW rates to Clubs. In every congregation a large Club can be got up with little exertion providing the work is undertaken in a spirited manner. Our Premium List contains a large number of useful and elegant articles, which are sent to Club Agents. Send us postal card asking for particulars.

NOTES OF THE WEEK.

At Rome, under the superintendence of the Minister of Justice, has been issued the first volume of a collection of documents, either rare or hitherto unpublished, regarding the relations of Church and State in Italy.

TEACHERS' local examinations will be held in February next by the London Sunday-school Union. The subjects of examination will be (1) Scripture history and doctrine; (2) The evidences of Christianity; (3) The principles and art of teaching.

THE model "Broad" Churchmen have been found. They abound in China. The three religions of the land are Confucianism, Buddhism and Taoism. A missionary testifies that "though mutually conflictive and repugnant, these three systems live together in perfect harmony in China. The people believe in them all, and they belong to them all."

THE editor of a religious journal pointed out to ministers the necessity and benefit, from a denominational point of view, of endeavouring to extend the circulation of the paper. Shortly afterwards a minister wrote to him as follows: "I read your article, and am under conviction I have not done my duty. I will do better hereafter. You may look for a list of new subscribers next week."

THE French Protestant Mission in Senegal has received a severe blow in the death of several of its missionaries from yellow fever. Several volunteers have already offered to fill their places, and it is hoped that the work will now go on uninterrupted. A little band of French missionaries and Basuto evangelists is about to start on a journey of evangelism and exploration to the centre of Africa.

THE Roman Catholic "Tablet" has made an impartial attempt to ascertain the opinions of the people of Ireland on the Land Act. It despatched a correspondent to visit that country, and he travelled through five counties, and interviewed all sorts and conditions of men. The result is that he is confident that the majority of the people gratefully accept the Land Act as a great boon, and that disturbing or disquieting agitation must speedily collapse, without hope of revival.

THE daily increase of population in the United Kingdom is 631 persons. The total population at last census is 35,465,562, there being 738,668 more females than males. There are 440 persons to a square mile in England and Wales. There has been in ten years a noteworthy decrease in the death-rate. Scotland has a population of 3,661,292, an excess of about 140,000 females over males. The marriage rate was, with one exception, the lowest of any year. Of the registered births, 10,498, or 8.45 per cent., were illegitimate.

At a recent meeting of the London Presbytery of the English Presbyterian Church it was stated that "the converts in Amoy Presbytery raised ten shillings per communicant, which was a test of their genuineness. Five congregations in the Amoy Presbytery are now giving calls to native pastors. Social matters were constantly coming up, hence the Presbyterian form of church government was found admirably suited to China. Another Presbytery would soon be established at Swatow, and another at Formosa, and these would be grouped together into a Synod."

NEWCASTLE continues to be the centre of the evangelistic work in England of Mr. Moody and Mr. San-

key. Large meetings are held daily, and many of these are for special classes, as for unconverted men, unconverted women, etc. The local Christian workers are fully alive to the importance of the meetings, and give effective aid to the evangelists; and the daily newspapers of Newcastle give each day extended reports of the previous day's meetings. The inquiry meetings are, like all others, well attended, and many persons have professed to have found Christ there.

THE Boers have accepted the settlement with England; Abdur Rahman Khan is in possession of Herat; and the intrigues of the Muntchu party in China against Li Hung-Chang have come to naught. These three bits of news from the far east should lighten the hearts of the friends of peace. The first means that Mr. Gladstone's magnanimity towards the Transvaal Republic has not been defeated by the obstinacy of extremists; the second, that his concession of peace and independence to Afghanistan is a success; third, that China is not to embroil all Central Asia by a war with Russia.

THE recent elections in Germany bring out strongly two facts in the German political situation: 1. The dictatorship of Bismarck has become obnoxious. 2. The assaults on the Jews have roused the people to a defence of the persecuted race. Bismarck has courted support—now on this side, now on that—for power to carry out his schemes; but he finds in the end that his majority in the Reichstag has slipped away from him. The abominable agitation against the Jews has received a most emphatic rebuke. The Jew-baiters have been defeated everywhere, and one of the most persistent of them, the Rev. Mr. Stoecker, court preacher, will probably lose his position.

THE "Burman Missionary" tells the story of an old man who, thirty or forty years ago, when a heathen, came into possession of a copy of the Psalms, in Burmese, which had been left behind by a traveller stopping at his house. He began to read, and before he had finished the book, he had resolved to cast his idols away. For twenty years he worshipped the eternal God revealed to him in the Psalms, using the 51st (which he committed to memory), as a daily prayer. Then he fell in with a white missionary who gave him a New Testament. With joy unspeakable he read for the first time the story of salvation by the Lord Jesus Christ. "Twenty years I have walked by starlight," he said. "Now I see the sun."

THIS is what the "Christian Union" says about Ingersoll's article on "The Christian Religion," in the "North American Review." "The title of Mr. Ingersoll's article is a complete misnomer. He has not the faintest conception of what the 'Christian religion' is. He knows no more about it than an Equimaux knows about a tropical summer; or a surgeon's scalpel about the emotions of love, joy, sorrow, pity, thanksgiving. He knows no more about it than a boy would of a chestnut from pricking his fingers with its burr. 'Christianity,' he gravely tells us, 'is the ordinary moral code, plus the miraculous religion of Jesus Christ, His crucifixion, His resurrection, His ascension, the inspiration of the Bible, the doctrine of the atonement, and the necessity of belief.' This is as if a mouse, having nibbled a while in a library, should declare, Literature is paste and paper, plus binders' boards and printers' ink."

THE Brahma Somaj have recently organized a Children's Band of Hope. A very gay festival was held at Mr. Sen's house, the children being arranged in gay costumes of vivid green and gold, with purple and silver stars, which were almost dazzling. A procession of eight boys entered, singing a Bengali song, on the evils of drink. Drink was described as "a demon with wide, yawning jaws, devastating our mother country." The demon was also represented by a hideous black figure on one side of the enclosure; gaping jaws, protruding tusks, and a horrid red tongue, a black bottle in one hand, and a glass in the other. The children were regaled on sweetmeats;

addresses were given, exhorting the children to destroy the monster. They at last all rose at a signal given, and carrying the hideous monster to another part of the garden where a stake had been put up, they set him on fire. Darkness fell as the last flames shot up, and the bottle fell from his hand.

AN exchange says: "We heard a minister the other Sabbath come down pretty heavily on the magistrates of this and other townships throughout Canada for neglect of duties in their official capacities. The reverend gentleman avowed that there was not one in fifty of said magistrates who did their duty, and that the majority of them were dead-heads to society, for the reason that they would stand by and listen to boys and men curse and swear and use all manner of profanity without even a rebuke. He also asserted that a magistrate was scarcely worthy of the name who would not fine any and every person for all such offences, so long as the law of the country is on their side." We suspect the minister referred to has been "barking up the wrong tree." The trouble rather seems to be that there is no one to prosecute offenders. If that minister, or some other person, has brought guilty parties before the magistrate, with the necessary proof, and if the magistrate has failed to enforce the law, then the condemnation recorded above is just.

THE "Catholic Presbyterian" speaks thus hopefully regarding the success of the efforts put forth for the dissemination of Christian literature in Hungary: "Painfully conscious of the sad fact, which presents itself in other countries also, that the secular press is actively poisoning the public mind with views and opinions which are at least negatively, if not even positively, antagonistic to the Christian faith, the more earnest among the Hungarian ministers are endeavouring to provide an antidote. With this object in view, a religious paper was started some years ago; and it is gratifying to find that three new religious periodicals were set on foot during 1880. In addition to these agencies, missionary colportage has been prosecuted with increased vigour, and followed by an amount of success which warrants the expenditure of still further efforts. This distribution of Bibles, tracts, and religious books has been mainly carried on by agents of the Religious Tract Society of London, whose report for 1880 was recently published. The Society employs a band of twelve colporteurs; but there are, besides, nearly fifty depots throughout the country, chiefly in the houses of pastors, who thus become the instruments of supplying their own districts and its neighbourhood with healthy Christian literature."

THE father of the Church of Scotland, the Rev. Walter Home, minister of Polwarth, Berwickshire, is about to tender his resignation as minister of the parish to his Presbytery. Mr. Home was born at Polwarth in July, 1793, and was the son of the Rev. Robert Home, minister of that parish. He passed through the usual curriculum required of students of the Church of Scotland, in the University of Edinburgh, and was licensed by the Presbytery of Dunse and Chirnside in 1823. In April of that year he was presented and ordained as colleague and successor to his father, and on his death, which took place in 1848, he entered upon the sole discharge of the duties of the parish. Mr. Home was ordained in the same week and year as the late father of the Church, the Rev. Mr. Stewart, of Liberton, but his ordination took place three days later. On the occasion of his jubilee, which took place in 1873, a presentation was made to him by his parishioners, and the esteem in which he was held was shewn by the fact that the presentation was subscribed to by almost every person in the parish. During the whole time that Mr. Home has been minister of Polwarth he has discharged his duties without assistance. By his courteous demeanour, and thoughtful attention to neighbours in sickness or trouble he endeared himself to all classes in the district, and his resignation is deeply regretted by a wide circle.